

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
OFFICE OF WATER
CALENDAR YEAR 2007 & FISCAL YEAR 2008
ACTION PLAN TO
INTEGRATE ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE



**Final Action Plan
Calendar Year 2007 & Fiscal Year 2008**

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**U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY – OFFICE OF WATER
CALENDAR YEAR 2007 & FISCAL YEAR 2008 ACTION PLAN
TO INTEGRATE ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE**

INTRODUCTION

The Environmental Justice Action Plan for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Water Calendar Year (CY) 2007 – Fiscal Year 2008 is intended as a guide for implementing strategies and activities to integrate environmental justice into existing and future priorities and commitments. In accordance with the President's Executive Order 12898, Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations (1994), and the Administrator's Environmental Justice Memorandum (November 4, 2004), Office of Water (OW) has developed this action plan to help achieve the Agency's overarching goal "to integrate environmental justice into all EPA programs, policies, and activities that results in a measurable benefit to the environment and/or public health of affected communities."

This action plan serves as a meaningful resource for OW staff and managers as they develop and implement their policies, programs, and activities for CY 2007/FY 2008. This action plan addresses management accountability; internal and external organizational engagements; collection, management, and, evaluation of data; professional and organizational development; environmental justice assessment process; and program evaluation.

Under the Safe Drinking Water Act (1974) [SDWA] and the Clean Water Act (1977) [CWA], OW works with EPA regional water divisions, states, tribes, water systems, and the public to set national drinking water standards and develop pollution control programs. OW is committed to incorporate environmental justice principles throughout these decision-making processes to ensure protection of human health for all communities and populations.

OW's reference to **environmental justice principles** throughout this action plan means the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies.

The Office of Water is organized into five program offices.

C Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water (OGWDW) protects public health by ensuring safe drinking water and protecting sources of drinking water. OGWDW, along with EPA's ten regional drinking water programs, oversees the implementation of the SDWA. OGWDW develops and provides assistance to implement national drinking water standards; oversees, assists, and helps fund state drinking water standards and source water protection programs; helps small drinking water programs; protects underground sources of drinking water through the Underground Injection Control Program; and provides information to the public. OGWDW also works in cooperation with regions, states, and tribes. In addition, to further protect the nation's drinking water systems from terrorist acts, OGWDW has formed the Water Security Division to help the water sector to understand and use the best scientific information and technologies for water security, support the assessment of the vulnerabilities that large, urban utilities may have to possible attack, and respond effectively in the event that an incident occurs.

C Office of Science and Technology (OST) is responsible for developing sound, scientifically defensible standards, criteria, advisories, guidelines, limitations, and standards guidelines under the CWA and SWDA. OST also is responsible for developing risk assessment methodologies and providing risk assessment support for OW. These products articulate the goals and provide the regulatory framework for restoring and maintaining the biological, chemical, and physical integrity of the nation's water resources; protecting the nation's public water supplies; and achieving technology-based pollution control requirements in support of point source (end of pipe) discharge programs, nonpoint source programs, wetlands programs, drinking water programs, dredge material management programs and geographic-specific programs (such as, Great Lakes, coastal areas and estuaries).

OST consists of three divisions that include the Engineering and Analysis Division, the Health and Ecological Criteria Division, and the Standards and Health Protection Division.

C **Office of Wastewater Management (OWM)** oversees a range of programs contributing to the well-being of the nation's waters and watersheds. Through its programs and initiatives, OWM promotes compliance with the requirements of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act. Under the CWA, OWM works in partnership with EPA regions, states, and tribes to regulate discharges into surface waters such as wetlands, lakes, rivers, estuaries, bays, and oceans. Specifically, OWM focuses on control of water that is collected in discrete conveyances (also called point sources), including pipes, ditches, and sanitary or storm sewers. OWM also is responsible for the Clean Water State Revolving Fund, the largest water quality funding source, focused on funding wastewater treatment systems, nonpoint source projects, and estuary protection. In addition, OWM manages the Water Pollution Control Program grants program for states and tribes.

C **Office of Wetlands, Oceans, and Watersheds (OWOW)** promotes a watershed approach to manage, protect, and restore the water resources and aquatic ecosystems of our marine and fresh waters. This strategy is based on the premise that water quality and ecosystem problems are best solved at the watershed level and that local citizens play an integral role in achieving clean water goals. Through its many programs, including ocean and coastal protection, wetlands protection, nonpoint source pollution, and monitoring, OWOW provides technical and financial assistance and develops regulations and guidance to support the watershed approach. OWOW works with states, tribes, territories, local governments, the private sector, and non-profit organizations to implement aspects of its program.

C **American Indian Environmental Office (AIEO)** The American Indian Environmental Office (AIEO) coordinates the Agency-wide effort to strengthen public health and environmental protection in Indian country, with a special emphasis on building capacity for tribes to administer their own environmental programs. AIEO oversees development and implementation of EPA's Indian Policy and strives to ensure that all EPA Headquarters and regional offices implement their parts of EPA's Indian program in a manner consistent with administration policy to work with tribes on a government-to-government basis and with EPA's trust responsibility to protect Tribal health and environments.

Environmental Justice Accomplishments

The Office of Water provides funding for infrastructure improvements to small and disadvantaged communities through the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF). The funding of infrastructure improvements reduces public exposure to contaminants through compliance with rules and supports the reliable delivery of safe water in small and disadvantaged communities and for Tribal and territorial public water systems. In 2006, 72% of loans made by state Drinking Water State Revolving Fund programs were to small systems. Also in 2006, 27% of loans (which may include lower-interest or longer-term loans and/or principal forgiveness) made by state DWSRF were to systems serving disadvantaged communities.

The Office of Water maintains the Fish Consumption Advisory Program Website that includes the National Listing of Fish and Wildlife Consumption Advisories (NFLA). In 2006, the NFLA was updated to include current information about fish consumption advisories issued by state, tribal, local and federal agencies. The website will disseminate information to health professionals and the public to make informed decisions on when and where to fish, and how to prepare fish caught for recreation and subsistence. Information on the website will provide greater access to information to minority and low-income populations, with the goal of reducing their exposure to contaminants in fish.

Staff in OW led and participated on a cross-media Fish Consumption Workgroup to develop a response to the National Environmental Justice Advisory Council's (NEJAC) Recommendations on Fish Consumption and the Environment.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Water, Office of Science and Technology, in partnership with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition, completed six new translations of the National Mercury Advisory brochure. The brochure, "What You Need to Know about Mercury in Fish and Shellfish" is now translated into Cambodian, Hmong, Vietnamese, Chinese, Portuguese and Korean. This brochure provides guidance to women of childbearing age and children on selecting and eating fish to avoid exposure to harmful effects of mercury.

EPA developed and released in January of 2006 a suite of new tools and guidance documents to better protect children from lead in drinking water and encourage voluntary activity by schools and child-care centers. The guidance documents teach schools and childcare facilities how to implement a 3Ts –Training, Testing, and Telling. The goal is to encourage voluntary lead in drinking water reduction programs. EPA's objective is to provide school officials and child-care providers with the tools they need to understand and address lead in drinking water in their facilities. This effort is in alignment with the National Environmental Justice Priority - Water Safe to Drink, and EPA's Strategic Plan 2003 - 2008, Goal 2: Clean and Safe Drinking Water, Objective 2: Clean and Safe Drinking Water. For more information on starting your 3Ts program, please visit www.epa.gov/safewater/schools.

Four case studies on the water quality standards programs in the Hoopa Valley Tribe, Hualapai Tribe, Sokaogon Chippewa Community, and Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead Reservation were completed. The case studies highlight the benefits of a water quality standards program to Indians Tribes. Case studies will also be distributed to other stakeholders (States, watershed groups and others) to showcase the positive efforts being made by Tribes to protect waters. The case studies are available on-line at <http://epa.gov/waterscience/tribes/video.htm>. The case studies were distributed at the National Forum on Environmental Science in Washington in September 25, 2006.

OFFICE OF WATER'S ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE POLICY

EPA's mission is to protect human health and safeguard the environment – air, water, and land – upon which the health and well being of all Americans depends, regardless of race, color, national origin, or economic circumstance. OW strives to provide clean and safe surface and drinking water that all Americans can enjoy. This is consistent with achieving the Agency's Environmental Justice priorities of Fish and Shellfish Safe to Eat and Water Safe to Drink.

To achieve these benefits for all Americans, OW is committed to integrate environmental justice principles as appropriate into its policies, programs, and activities to ensure that no segment of the population is disproportionately burdened from adverse human health or environmental effects.

OW is dedicated to enhancing programmatic areas to prevent disproportionate exposure to risks of environmental health hazards. OW is aware that data collection and analysis are fundamental to identifying and prioritizing environmental health risks, as well as pollution prevention opportunities for risk reduction, in environmental justice communities. OW commits to improving information collection as quickly as possible by working with states and tribes to help preserve the integrity of their current programs in the face of significant funding cutbacks; making better use of statistical modeling techniques to fill the gaps; and upgrading existing data and information. Therefore, OW will ensure that its staff has access to information and analytical support necessary to explore ways to improve environmental systems. In resolving these gaps, OW will additionally gain best practices and lessons learned about environmental justice to be woven into future priorities and commitments.

OW commits to engaging stakeholders early in the environmental decision making process through public participation, cross media team involvement, outreach and partnerships. OW fosters improving stakeholders' capacity to address problems and engage diverse stakeholders in solving problems. OW believes pooling all

available knowledge and leveraging resources are pertinent tools to effectively address environmental justice concerns. Furthermore, OW is dedicated to strengthening collaborative relationships with external water programs to assure OW policies in environmental justice are being implemented accordingly.

OW also commits to working with the states, tribal partners, and other stakeholders to develop and implement broad based and integrated monitoring and assessment programs that strengthen their water quality standards and improve decision-making.

OW management will strongly communicate environmental justice principles throughout its program offices to ensure that these principles are fairly considered during the entire decision-making process. OW promotes and encourages environmental justice training for all staff to strengthen the knowledge, skills, and abilities necessary to successfully integrate environmental justice principles as appropriate into all policies, programs, and activities.

Section 1: Organizational Infrastructure

C How will your organizational structure promote the integration of environmental justice within all program areas?

OW considers concerns and principles related to environmental justice in the development of its policies, guidance, and regulations. To ensure that OW's approach to addressing environmental justice issues is consistent and coordinated, OW has designated a lead Environmental Justice Coordinator. In addition, OW has designated environmental justice contacts within each of the five program offices to communicate environmental justice information and to further promote the integration of environmental justice within the five program areas.

The Environmental Justice Coordinator serves as the lead for OW's Environmental Justice Integration Committee (EJIC), which is comprised of the environmental justice contacts from each of the five program offices. OW's EJIC convenes on a monthly basis through conference calls. The purpose of the EJIC will be to ensure that environmental justice principles and concerns continue to be integrated among all program offices in OW. The lead Environmental Justice Coordinator will chair the EJIC and the responsibilities of the members of the EJIC will include, but are not limited to the following:

- C Promote the integration of environmental justice principles into the day-to-day activities of OW staff
- C Provide assistance to promote the implementation of OW's Environmental Justice Action Plan
- C Distribute information to OW staff on issues related to environmental justice
- C Provide communities with early and meaningful involvement in the decision-making process
- C Continue to gather, analyze, and interpret data, and provide an environmental justice perspective on relevant information associated with activities conducted by OW's program offices

The OW Environmental Justice Coordinator meets monthly with OEJ, the Agency Environmental Justice Coordinator and the OW EJIC to discuss and develop strategies to address emerging and outstanding environmental justice issues. The OW EJ Coordinator also meets monthly with the OW DAA to develop strategies for integrating environmental justice into the day-to-day operations.

OW's program offices also work towards integrating environmental justice principles into their infrastructure through a variety of activities and projects. For example, OW has established national programs that provide technical assistance to state and local governments for warnings to the public about consumption of contaminated fish and swimming waters with high level of pathogens. These programs emphasize promotion

of environmental justice through contaminant and pathogen monitoring, as well as effective risk communications to minority populations who may consume large amounts of fish taken from polluted waters or swim in urban and other waters containing high levels of pathogens.

The public health advisory programs are managed by the Standards and Health Protection Division (SHPD) in the Office of Science and Technology (OST), where they are integrated into EPA's Water Quality Standards Program. Integration of public health advisory activities into the Water Quality Standards Program promotes environmental justice by ensuring that advisories and minority population health risks are considered in making water quality standards attainment decisions, developing Total Maximum Daily Loads for impaired waters, and developing permits to control sources of pollution.

OST published guidance in 2002, the following language in appropriate acquisition instruments: "Executive Order 12898 (Environmental Justice) directs Federal agencies to focus on minority and low-income populations in implementing their programs, policies, and activities. Consistent with the Agency's continuing commitment to environmental justice and fair treatment of all people, the contractor shall notify the EPA project officer of minority and low-income populations, as well as populations with differential patterns of subsistence consumption of fish and wildlife, likely to be affected by a program, policy, or activity associated with work done under the contract and, when directed by EPA, shall identify any disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effect of the program, policy, or activity of concern on these populations (to be tailored as appropriate for individual statements of work)."

SHPD, in coordination with the Regions, reviews and approves or disapproves water quality standards adopted by states and authorized Indian tribes. SHPD develops guidance and regulations that govern the program. Its mechanisms and processes ensure that issues affecting Tribes are fully integrated into day-to-day aspects of the water quality standards program.

The Office of Wastewater Management (OWM) does not implement any programs specifically to address environmental justice concerns; it does provide technical and financial assistance to many rural and disadvantaged communities where environmental justice populations reside. The National Small Communities and Rural Communities Assistance Programs seek to assist communities with limited economic resources in making informed water quality and public health decisions and investments. Two additional OWM programs – The U.S.-Mexico Border and Alaska Native Village programs – target disadvantaged and underserved communities. These assistance programs are designed to increase the number of citizens provided with basic water and wastewater sanitation services.

Section 2: Management Support

C How will your Regional/Headquarters office management communicate expectations about the Environmental Justice Program, review tangible/intangible outcomes, and evaluate performance?

OW's management will ensure that appropriate staff are available to manage projects aimed at preventing, addressing and/or alleviating environmental justice issues raised by the NEJAC; state, tribal, and local governments; environmental justice communities; and other stakeholders. In addition, the OW's Deputy Assistant Administrator is an active participant in the Agency's Executive Steering Committee on Environmental Justice.

OW's management is committed to incorporating environmental justice principles throughout these decision-making processes to ensure protection of human health for all communities and populations. For example, to communicate expectations for integrating environmental justice into OW's day-to-day activities, OW's senior management will issue a Memorandum to all staff that clearly defines and reaffirms OW's commitment to EPA's environmental justice program as well as establishes goals and objectives for each program office to work towards. For example, OW staff will be encouraged to staff take the OEJ on-line Introduction to Environmental Justice Training. In addition, OW will add the on-line Introduction to EJ training to the OW Water Careers

Programs. OW also plans to add a hyperlink for the training to the the Drinking Water Academy, Watershed Academy, Water Quality Standards Academy, and Working Effectively with Tribal Governments training will all have a link to the on-line Introduction to Environmental Justice training. OW staff will also be encouraged to participate in Agency workgroups addressing cross-media issues such as OECA's Environmental Justice Reviews Workgroup.

In 2008, OW will present the first OW Environmental Justice Award to honor employees who have shown exceptional devotion to integrating environmental justice principles in their day-to-day activities.

OW also plans to offer Environmental Justice Brown Bag discussions on water related issues. This will provide OW staff with an opportunity to learn first hand how EPA's policies, programs and activities affect the lives of EJ stakeholders. The EJ Brown Bags will also provide OW staff with an opportunity to engage in a dialogue with EJ stakeholders.

OW continues to include environmental justice among issues to be considered in planning all of our work. This is reflected in our planning documents and EJ Action Plans.

Section 3: Organizational Resources and Program Support

- C Identify the aggregate full-time equivalents (FTE) in your Regional/Headquarters office that will specifically focus on environmental justice issues. If responsibilities and duties are parceled out as collateral duties to one or more employees, please compute what the FTE equivalent would be.
- C What are the functions and day-to-day responsibilities of your environmental justice coordinator(s) and/or team?
- C Will your Regional/Headquarters' office have any ongoing mechanisms for focusing on environmental justice issues, such as teams and workgroups? If yes, please list and describe. Also, state how these mechanisms will be tied to other programs and activities in your Regional/Headquarters office.

OW's Environmental Justice Coordinator represents one (1) FTE that is dedicated to addressing environmental justice issues. In addition, each program office has appointed an Environmental Justice Contact to ensure that environmental justice is being considered in all of the work that OW does, and to maximize the use of OW's statutory authority under the CWA and SWDA as well as the permitting process for the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) to address environmental justice issues. Each of OW's program offices also is committed to assigning staff to work on environmental justice issues when the need arises. Given the broad range of activities that OW is involved in the environmental justice arena, it is not possible to identify the number of FTEs devoted solely to environmental justice issues. For example, work on environmental justice issues and risk management for subpopulations is integrated into all of the activities of the Fish Advisory Program and the Beach Programs.

OW's Environmental Justice Coordinator, who serves on the Water Policy Staff of the Assistant Administrator, is the focal point to coordinate and disseminate information about environmental justice. Responsibilities of OW's Environmental Justice Coordinator include:

- C Coordinates a multi-disciplinary approach to OW's environmental justice program that includes providing administrative, technical, and policy direction to staff who address environmental justice issues; manages the flow of information within OW; and helps to coordinate inter-disciplinary teams to address concerns related to environmental justice
- C Serves as a conduit to ensure effective communication between internal and external stakeholders
- C Develops and recommends to the senior management a budget to meet resource needs of OW's Environmental justice program
- C Works with other EPA program offices to ensure that the Agency's goals and objectives on Environmental justice are achieved

C Represents OW Headquarters and regional offices to inform stakeholders about OW's environmental justice activities as well as participates on national workgroups that address concerns related to environmental justice

C Facilitates building relationships and partnerships with external stakeholders who are affected by OW's policies, guidance, and regulations

OW is committed to becoming more active on workgroups and other projects related to environmental justice that are sponsored or chaired by programs outside of the OW. Through its participation in the Agency's Environmental Justice Executive Steering Committee, OW will continue to look for opportunities to lend its expertise to address environmental justice. For example, OW staff participates on OEJ's Environmental Justice Review workgroup and two of the Function Specific workgroups to develop protocols for conducting environmental justice reviews of Agency policies, programs and activities.

In addition, the OW staff is involved in a number of projects designed to ensure that the goals of environmental justice are achieved and fully integrated in OW's policies, programs, and guidance. Examples include:

AIEO is working with other EPA offices to issue an update to the 1992 Guidelines for Exposure Assessment guidelines. AIEO is developing a new section that will provide information specifically to tribes.

The Director of AIEO is leading efforts with Health Canada to conduct an international indigenous forum on tribal ecological knowledge.

OW is developing better tools to conduct environmental justice analyses and develop tribal water programs.

During the period covered by this plan, OWM plans to establish an environmental services contract to provide the Tribes access to environmental service providers. The environmental service providers will assist the Tribes with core environmental functions associated with the new Tribal water quality grant guidance.

Additionally, many staff from OW's program offices serve on workgroups or teams that address issues related to environmental justice. For example:

OST's Tribal Coordinator is a member of EPA's National Indian Work Group. In addition, OST's Tribal Coordinator and a team of Regional Office Water Quality Standards Coordinators and Regional and Headquarters attorneys serve a key role in reviewing tribal applications for Treatment as State (TAS), and providing advice and assistance to tribes so that those applications can be approved by EPA.

EPA's water quality standards regulation (40 CFR Part 131) requires that states and authorized tribes review their water quality standards at least once every three years and revise them, as necessary. During the next round of triennial reviews, OST will work with the regions to provide guidance to states and authorized tribes to ensure that notifications of public hearings are targeted toward low-income and minority populations. This includes targeted mailings and notifications in newspapers serving minority communities in the locally affected areas, including non-English speaking publications.

The BEACH Program has a Headquarters team and one beach program coordinator in each coastal or Great Lakes EPA Region. The BEACH Program is focused on environmental justice issues such as highlighting frequently used urban beaches, or other waters used by minority populations for recreation, for state or local government monitoring and informing swimmers about unacceptably high levels of pathogen indicators. The team holds monthly conference calls with Regional Program Coordinators and plans to hold an annual meeting with state and local government health departments and environmental agencies.

OWM provides water and wastewater services to tribal and community leaders through its Small Communities Team. The team partners with organizations to manage programs of technical assistance, financial assistance, and education and training to small communities and tribes. Many of the Small Communities' publications are offered in Spanish and English.

AIEO serves as an active member of the Interagency Working Group on Environmental Justice's Native American Task Force. The Task Force coordinates Federal efforts to address the range of environmental and public health concerns facing federally-recognized tribes, state-recognized tribes, non-recognized tribes, and tribal members.

OWOW established the Five Star Restoration Program to work with EPA's partners for community-based wetlands restoration projects in watersheds across the U.S. The National Association of Counties, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, and the Wildlife Habitat Council have joined with EPA for this effort. Funding for the program is provided by OWOW and the National Marine Fisheries Service's Community-based Restoration Program.

OGWDW supports the National Drinking Water Advisory Council, established under the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA). The Council has members representing small systems, public health professionals, and minority populations.

In OST's Standards and Health Protection Division, the Tribal Coordinator plays a lead role in reviewing tribal TAS applications and developing and leading a broad range of activities designed to assist Indian tribes. This includes developing outreach, technical assistance, specialized training courses, videos, case study materials that focus on tribal water quality standards programs, hands-on, experiential workshops to assist tribes to fully develop their own environmental programs and consultation plans. These activities are carried out in concert with Regional Offices. The Tribal Coordinator is a member of EPA's National Indian Work Group.

The Fish Advisory Program has a Headquarters team and one coordinator in each region. The coordinators meet with state fish advisory program representatives at a biannual forum on contaminants in fish. Tribal representatives also attend the forum. Environmental justice issues such as the development of fish consumption advisories to protect targeted communities are discussed at these meetings. Targeted communities may include those with subsistence fishers, cultural traditions that involve consuming organs of fish that can contain high concentrations of contaminants, limited proficiency in English, limited or no literacy, low income, or large numbers of immigrants or refugees. The BEACH and Fish Advisory Program meetings also provide opportunities to hold discussions on important issues with representative from other EPA and Federal Agency programs.

C Are there any specific programs/initiatives for which environmental justice will be listed as a funding priority?

Activities to promote environmental justice are integrated into the Fish Advisory Program and the Beaches Environmental Assessment and Coastal Health (BEACH) Program. These programs have emphasized promotion of environmental justice through contaminant and pathogen monitoring and effective risk communications to minority populations who may consume large amounts of fish taken from polluted waters, or swim in urban and other waters containing high levels of pathogens.

The Fish Advisory Program will focus resources on activities encouraging states to conduct fish tissue contaminant studies in waters used for fishing by minority populations, particularly those that catch fish for subsistence. Such populations may include African Americans, Asian Pacific Islanders, Hispanics, Native Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Alaska Natives. The BEACH program provides grants to coastal and Great Lakes state and local governments for beach monitoring and public notification.

OWOW plans to award combined FY2006/FY 2007 funds under the FY2006/Fy2007 Targeted Watershed Grants (TWG) Request for Proposals, which promotes a cohesive and integrated approach to watershed issues and implementing environmental change. The TWG program has a two-pronged approach of awarding grants for capacity building as well as for implementation of watershed projects. Training and outreach to tribes and other communities foster stronger, more diverse watershed based partnerships. The TWG program promotes cooperative conservation and environmental justice components by assisting watershed groups to become effective, results-oriented, and self-sustaining.

Section 4: Government Performance and Results Act Alignment

C How will your Regional/Headquarters office's environmental justice program be linked to your Regional/Headquarters office's main GPRA priorities?

C How will your Regional/Headquarters office's environmental justice strategies and activities be integrated into specific programmatic areas/functions? (e.g., permitting, community outreach, etc.)

C Will your Regional/Headquarters office utilize Performance Partnership Agreements (PPA) and Performance Partnership Grants (PPG) to specifically address environmental justice issues?

OW places emphasis on achieving results in areas with potential environmental justice concerns through Water Safe to Drink (Sub-objective 2.1.1) and Fish and Shellfish Safe to Eat (Sub-objective 2.1.2). This will result in improved environmental quality for all people, especially for those living in areas with potential disproportionately high and adverse human health conditions.

To achieve these results, the Office of Water has committed in the Strategic Plan for Fiscals Years 2006-2011 to:

Participate in an Agency-wide effort to develop and strengthen measures to ensure that the environmental and public health benefits of programs are equitably shared. Under our goal of clean and safe water, we will measure tribal water systems' compliance with drinking water standards, for the condition of tribal waters, and tribal access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation.

In the future, the national water program expects to use established, Agency-wide criteria and identify "environmental justice" areas for which we will develop measures of progress in improving drinking water safety and restoring impaired waters. EPA will strive to deliver program resources so that progress toward clean and safe water in these areas is equal to or better than progress reported nationwide.

The Office of Water has established national programs that provide technical assistance to state and local governments for warnings to the public about consumption of contaminated fish and waters with high levels of pathogens. These programs have emphasized promotion of environmental justice through contaminant and pathogen monitoring, as well as risk communication to minority populations who may consume large amounts of fish taken from polluted waters or swim in urban and other waters containing high levels of pathogens. The public health advisory programs are managed in the Standards and Health Protection Division in the Office of Water where they are integrated into EPA's Water Quality Standards Program. Integration of public health advisory activities into the Water Quality Standards Program promotes environmental justice by ensuring that advisories and minority population health risks are considered in making water quality standards attainment decisions, developing Total Maximum Daily Loads for impaired waters, and developing permits to control sources of pollution.

With regards specifically to American Indians, the water quality standards program will continue to reach out to tribal communities to publicize the benefits of water quality standards on reservation lands. This includes use of OST's tribal web site, publications, participation in conferences, training courses and by working with Regional Office staffs. Additionally, we will rely on existing mechanisms to communicate with Tribes through

tribal organizations, including the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission, the All-Indian Pueblo Council, National Tribal Environmental Council and others.

SHPD will also consult with Tribal organizations and tribal members of EPA's National and Regional Tribal Operations Committees and other key tribal organizations periodically to enlist views and information in developing water quality standards in Indian country.

OW will address environmental justice issues and meet the community involvement goal in GPRA. OW has established national plans and activities to provide technical assistance to communities, local governments, state governments, and tribes. For example:

OST provides warnings to the public about consumption of contaminated fish and recreating in waters with high levels of pathogens. These programs have emphasized promotion of environmental justice through contaminant and pathogen monitoring, as well as effective risk communication to minority populations who may consume large amounts of fish taken from polluted waters or swim in urban and other waters containing high levels of pathogens.

AIEO is the National Program Manager for General Assistance Program (GAP) grants. Under the Indian Environmental General Assistance Program Act, EPA awards capacity building grants to federally recognized tribes and intertribal consortia to plan, develop or establish environmental programs. GAP represents the largest single source of funding for tribal environmental programs awarded by EPA. AIEO is also the lead Agency office for tribal Performance Partnership Grants (PPGs). PPGs are funded by EPA from funds allocated and otherwise available for categorical grant programs. PPGs provide tribes and states with the option to combine funds from two or more specific categorical grants into one or more PPGs. This flexibility allows tribes and states to address their highest environmental priorities and reduce administrative burdens.

Currently, there are no PPAs or PPGs that specifically address fish and wildlife contamination or BEACH Program activities. However, PPAs are negotiated with the states and tribes on a region-by-region basis for the OST. Agreements therefore, could be negotiated to encourage the monitoring of waters used by minority populations for fishing or swimming, and the issuance of fish consumption or swimming advisories for waters where such measures are needed to protect public health.

Section 5: Internal Organizational Engagement

C Will your Regional/Headquarters office's environmental justice program have any ongoing mechanisms to communicate with, receive input from, and otherwise consistently engage with other programs in your Regional/Headquarters office? If yes, please list and describe.

C Will your Regional/Headquarters office develop any related guidance to the staff regarding the integration of environmental justice in areas such as authorization/delegation, environmental education, grants and contracts, inspection, enforcement and compliance assistance, permitting, performance partnership, public participation, waste site cleanup/Brownfields, etc.? If yes, please list and describe.

OW's Environmental Justice Coordinator actively communicates with OEJ to ensure that OW's programs, policies, and activities are consistent with the Agency's policies and guidance for addressing environmental justice issues. The OW Environmental Justice Coordinator also meets on a regular basis with the environmental Justice Coordinators from other Headquarters program offices and regional offices.

OW will increase its participation on Agency workgroups that address cross-media issues related to environmental justice.

Listed below are a number of collaborative efforts in which OW staff are involved:

The Office of Water Deputy Assistant Administrator participates on the Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance, Executive Environmental Justice Steering Committee to support the integration of environmental justice into the core of EPA's programs, policies and activities.

Staff in OW participates on the headquarters BEACH Program team and the headquarters Fish Advisory Program Team, both of which have program coordinators in each EPA Regional Office.

The OST Tribal Coordinator plays a lead role in reviewing tribal TSA applications along with developing and leading a broad range of activities designed to assist Indian tribes. These activities are carried out in concert with Regional Offices.

The Office of Water DAA co-chairs, with Regional Tribal Operations Committee (TOC) representatives, the Indian Program Policy Council (IPPC). The IPPC is comprised of two groups, the Council itself and a Steering Committee.

The Director of the American Indian Environmental Office (AIEO) chairs the National Indian Working Group (NIWG) composed of representatives from regional and program offices, generally the Indian Coordinator.

AIEO promotes and facilitates communication between EPA and tribal governments pursuant to the 1984 Indian Policy and Executive Order 13175 (Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments), and between EPA and tribal governments members' and organizations.

AIEO also coordinates meetings and conference calls for the Tribal Operations Committee (TOC), comprised of 19 tribal leaders or their environmental program managers (the Tribal Caucus), and EPA's Senior Leadership Team, including the Administrator, the Deputy Administrator, and the Assistant and Regional Administrators.

OWM conducts monthly in-house training on priority and merging issues. The May 2007 session covered environmental justice and how environmental justice can be integrated into OW's daily work.

OST has published EJ guidance requiring the following language in appropriate OST acquisition instruments: Executive Order 12898 (Environmental Justice) directs federal agencies to focus on minority and low-income populations in implementing their programs, policies and activities. Consistent with the Agency's continuing commitment to environmental justice and fair treatment of all people, the contractor shall notify the EPA project officer of minority and low-income populations, as well as populations with differential patterns of subsistence consumption of fish and wildlife, likely to be affected by a program, policy or activity associated with work done under the contract and, when directed by EPA, shall identify any disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects of the program, policy or activity of concern on these populations (to be tailored as appropriate for individual statements of work).

Additionally, OST will evaluate lists of coastal recreation waters that are being monitored by state and local governments. This evaluation will be conducted to determine whether revisions in the BEACH Program's grant guidance are necessary to promote Environmental Justice. Guidance revisions may be needed to encourage state and local monitoring of waters used by minority populations for swimming, and to establish notification programs covering those waters. The Fish Advisory Program has issued guidance on fish tissue sampling, analysis, and risk assessment for development of fish consumption advisories. OST has developed this guidance to protect populations eating higher-than-average quantities of fish. These populations include Native American Subsistence fishers, Asian Pacific Islanders, and Native Hawaiians. Updated risk communication guidance will be developed for EPA regional Fish Advisory Program coordinators, States, and Tribes. The guidance will include information on developing and implementing risk communication strategies for "hard-to-reach" communities. These include communities with limited English proficiency, limited literacy,

geographic isolation, limited income, or unique cultural values and practices that may limit the effectiveness of certain risk communication tools.

Section 6: External Stakeholder Engagement

C Will your Regional/Headquarters office have any processes in place to receive input on environmental justice issues from external stakeholders, such as workgroups, advisory bodies, or listening sessions? If yes, please describe the process and explain how the input gathered may be (or has been) used by your Regional/Headquarters office.

C Will your Regional/Headquarters office have any ongoing mechanisms to share information to external groups regarding environmental justice such as web sites, faxback system, printed outreach materials, etc.? If yes, please list and describe. Also please mention the specific stakeholder group(s) which benefit from these outreach mechanisms.

C How will your Regional/Headquarters office identify stakeholders who could benefit from increased awareness about environmental justice and being more engaged in the collaborative problem-solving process?

C How will your Regional/Headquarters office promote collaborative problem-solving among stakeholders?

C Will your Regional/Headquarters office have any special initiatives or provisions to address issues for persons with limited English proficiency? If yes, please describe or attach.

C In the course of your environmental justice outreach, will your Regional/Headquarters office utilize any informational materials translated in languages other than English? If yes, please list and describe.

C Are there any specific grant programs for which environmental justice will be listed as a funding priority? Please list and describe.

On November 19, 2002, the National Environmental Justice Advisory Council (NEJAC) submitted a report to EPA on Fish Consumption and Environmental Justice. This report reflects advice and recommendations that resulted from analyses completed by the NEJAC Fish Consumption Workgroup. The recommendations contained in this report are being carefully considered as EPA works to further integrate environmental justice into Agency programs.

EPA's BEACH program awards grants to state and local governments for monitoring recreational waters and issuing advisories when waters unsafe for swimming due to high levels of pathogens. The BEACH Program has developed required program performance criteria for grant recipients. The Program held public meetings throughout the U.S. to receive input from stakeholders on environmental justice and other issues related to the criteria EPA will continue to work with stakeholders to receive comments on any future revisions of the performance criteria that may be necessary. The BEACH and Fish Advisory Programs also hold biannual meetings. The meetings provide opportunities to hold discussions on important environmental justice issues with key stakeholder groups.

Additionally, OST's Standards and Health Protection Division receives input on environmental justice issues directly from Indian tribes, through the American Indian Environmental Office, and with meetings of EPA's Tribal Caucus and Tribal Operations Committee. Regional Offices are also a conduit for receiving information on tribal issues.

The Fish Advisory Program maintains an internet website that provides information regarding fish consumption and environmental justice. The website disseminates information to health professionals and the public in order to enable informed decisions on when and where to fish, and how to prepare fish caught for recreation and subsistence. Information on the website includes the "National Listing of Fish Advisories", a database of information describing all fish advisories issued by states and tribes in the U.S. The website also includes fact sheets, reports, posters, and other information such as EPA's, "Guide to Healthy Eating of the Fish you Catch". Published in multiple languages, this is a guide to selection and preparation of fish that are low in chemical pollutants. In addition to providing this information on an internet website, the Fish Advisory Program has

worked closely with the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry to disseminate printed material to the public through the medical community (medical doctors, nurses, nurse practitioners, and midwives).

The BEACH Program maintains a similar “Beach Watch” internet website. The Beach Watch website contains a database of information describing state and local beach monitoring and notification programs as well as information about advisories issued for specific beaches during the swimming season. In addition, the website contains fact sheets, posters, reports and brochures that tell people what they need to know about beach water pollution, the health risks associated with swimming in polluted water, and who to contact if it is suspected that beach water is contaminated. Some of this information has been published in English and Spanish.

The Fish Advisory program has identified and worked closely with stakeholders to develop national guidance on fish sampling, tissue analysis, risk assessment, and risk communication for the issuance of fish consumption advisories. EPA has provided information about the Fish Advisory Program to the Fish Consumption Workgroup of the National Environmental Justice Advisory Council. In addition, the Fish Advisory Program has invited stakeholder groups to national meetings for discussion of environmental justice issues. The Program has also conducted training for tribes and states on development of fish consumption advisories. Through these activities, EPA has identified stakeholder groups who will benefit from increased awareness of environmental justice issues, and will continue to involve stakeholders in a collaborative problem-solving process.

The BEACH Program has identified and worked closely with stakeholders to develop national guidance for beach monitoring and public notification. Stakeholder groups have participated in national meetings to discuss environmental justice issues. The Program will continue to engage stakeholders in a collaborative problem solving process.

The SHPD will work with the Office of Environmental Justice, Regional Offices and umbrella groups to develop strategies and plans of action for increasing awareness (among low income and minority populations) of the water quality standards program and the role that these groups can play. In collaboration with other offices and organizations, SHPD will consider developing outreach and other tools geared toward socio-economically disadvantaged groups and minority populations.

OW continues to encourage the participation of external stakeholders in decision-making processes that affect environmental justice communities. Through various stakeholders groups such as the Tribal Operations Committee, the National Environmental Justice Advisory Council, and the National Drinking Water Advisory Council, OW will continue to seek advice and comments on programs and activities that affect low income and minority communities.

OW also will continue to serve as an information resource to these external stakeholders. OW is pursuing several new initiatives over the next two years to improve OW's communication to external stakeholders. Such initiatives include working with OEJ to set up its own environmental justice mailing list using OEJ's current environmental justice mailing list that is populated with over 3,000 names. For those stakeholders that do not have access to the Internet, the mailings will provide them with access to the information that is available on OW's web sites.

OW also continues to support current web sites that are translated into other languages to ensure that all stakeholders have access to information. For example, OGWDW maintains home pages that have been translated into Spanish to reach additional stakeholders with important information related to drinking water advisories. In addition, OWM has translated more than 100 outreach publications into Spanish, and more are planned during the next two years. Many documents relate to CAFOs and NPDES. OW will continue to identify other fact sheets and outreach materials that should be translated into not only Spanish but also other languages.

The Fish Advisory and BEACH Programs have developed and published information for the public in multiple languages. EPA's, "Guide to Healthy Eating of the Fish you Catch" contains information on selection and preparation of fish that are low in chemical pollutants. This document has been published in multiple languages including Vietnamese, Laotian, Spanish, and Russian.

The BEACH Program has published information in English and Spanish about the health risks of swimming in polluted water. EPA's brochure, "Before You go to the Beach" provides information about beach water pollution, the health risks associated with swimming in polluted water, and who to contact if water at a beach is contaminated. The BEACH program has also provided information about beach water pollution to radio stations for Spanish language broadcasts.

Section 7: Data Collection, Management, and Evaluation

C List your Regional/Headquarters office's main data sets - the ways in which you collect environmental justice information. Also, describe how this information will be utilized by your Regional/Headquarters office (e.g. environmental justice assessment, program tracking/evaluation).

C Will your Regional/Headquarters office have a method of identifying and highlighting best practices and lessons learned? If yes, please describe.

OW uses 40 water-quality data systems to maintain the flow of information between OW and appropriate users of the information.

Each data system has three layers: data collection layer, a common services or functional layer, and a graphic interface or user layer. The information collected for OW could be compared with U.S. Bureau of Census data on population and community characteristics. When appropriate, OW will collect, maintain, and analyze data on populations identified by race, national origin, and/or income. Examples of OW's data systems include Ambient Water Quality (STORET); Drinking Water (SDWIS); Permit Compliance System (PCS); Information Building; National Hydrology Data (NHD); BEACH Program; and Fish and Wildlife Consumption Advisories.

AIEO will continue to play a major role in developing the Tribal Enterprise Architecture for Information Technology system. AIEO will continue to work on development of the Tribal Program Enterprise Architecture, a comprehensive system that extracts from existing sources (systems and databases) and transforms data to fit the tribal program business needs. Currently, the TPEA is composed of the following applications:

- Objective 5.3 Reporting
- GAP Tracking
- Tribal Grants Query
- Tribal Information Management System (TIMS)
- TPEA Data Management Center
- AIEO Document Control Registry
- Tribal Windows To The Environment (TWE)
- Tribal Contacts Database

TPEA is intended to:

- Improve tribal access to EPA and other agencies' facilities and programs in and around Indian country
- Promote interagency and intertribal data sharing to support tribal programs
- Streamline systems to focus on accountability in order to direct funding effectively
- Facilitate information sharing among EPA HQ, EPA Regions, and tribes
- Support reporting requirements of the federal Capital Planning and Investment Control (CPIC)

AIEO is coordinating with other Program Offices to promote development of metrics under all goals to indicate tribal performance and environmental results that include tribes.

OWM supports efforts within the Agency to identify environmental justice areas. This will enable OWM to connect environmental justice areas with water permits and monitoring data. Once this is done, OWM's capacity to analyze data and monitor environmental activities in environmental justice areas will be greatly enhanced. OWM is working with the Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance (OECA) and other Agency offices on this effort.

The Fish Advisory Program is conducting a study to analyze the effectiveness of risk communication approaches used for fish consumption advisories. When completed, this study will provide information to effectively develop and issue advisories for populations at risk of exposure to contaminants in fish tissue. Both the Fish Advisory and BEACH Programs will invite state and local governments to present "success stories" and lessons learned at national meetings so that best practices can be transferred among program participants. The Fish and BEACH Programs also publish other documents highlighting best practices. Both programs have published national guidance for monitoring and risk communication. The Fish Program publishes technical fact sheets containing information used for risk assessment and advisory development. The BEACH program is publishing state profiles that highlight practices used by all state beach monitoring and public notification programs.

EPA's Fish Advisory Program conducts an annual survey of state and tribal advisory programs to obtain information about the methods they use for fish tissue monitoring, risk assessment, and risk communication. The Fish Advisory Program also compiles and maintains a national database of fish consumption advisories that have been issued by state and tribal governments in the U.S. This information can be used to help determine whether state and tribal programs are providing an adequate level of health protection for minority populations who may consume large amounts of fish taken from polluted waters.

EPA's BEACH Program maintains a database of information describing state and local beach monitoring and notification programs and advisories issued for specific beaches during the swimming season. This information can be used to help determine whether state, tribal, and local programs are providing an adequate level of health protection for minority populations who swim in urban and other waters containing high levels of pathogens.

The SHPD has developed case study materials detailing the benefits of water quality standards program to Indian tribes. As resources allow, it will continue this series of case study materials as a way to document environmental improvements on reservations. The case studies and lessons learned are also a mechanism for promoting tribal environmental programs to other Tribes.

OGWDW maintains the Safe Drinking Water Information System (SDWIS/FED) Violation and Inventory Data, U.S. Census Bureau Data, and Drinking Water Mapping Application Datasets. The Office currently is conducting a study to determine if there is a relationship between public water systems in noncompliance with drinking water regulations and environmental justice (or economically distressed) communities.

Section 8: Professional and Organization Development

C Will your Regional/Headquarters office plan to provide training on environmental justice? If yes, please list and describe.

C What methods will you utilize to promote shared learning, such as best practices and lessons learned among staff? If yes, please list and describe.

OW plans to integrate environmental justice principles into existing training courses and programs. These include the NPDES permits writing course and OW's three training academies - the Drinking Water Academy, Water Quality Standards Academy, and Watershed Academy. OW plans to work with OEJ to develop EJ training specific to OW, which will then be incorporated or integrated into these existing training courses, programs and academies.

OW will also hold “brown bags” at lunchtime for staff to view videotapes on environmental justice and other related topics. Other program offices’ efforts related to professional development include: AIEO coordinates EPA’s “Working Effectively with Tribal Governments” (WETG) training. The training is available on the EPA intranet for all EPA staff at <http://intranet.epa.gov/opptsval/training/tribal/EPA/mainmenu/launchPage.htm>. AIEO also exhibits and displays the WETG training at office and Agency events such as the Native American and Alaska Native Heritage Month events and Office of Environmental Information’s open house. In addition, AIEO is expanding WETG for use outside of EPA. AIEO recently sponsored a WETG demonstration day for other government agencies interested in possibly adapting the training to their specific circumstances.

The Office of Wastewater Management (OWM) conducts training for State permit writers. One of the modules covered in the training is environmental justice. In the course, OWM promotes greater sensitivity about EJ populations in the preparation, research and outreach associated with each permit. OWM also conducts monthly in-house training on priority and emerging issues. The May 2007 session covered environmental justice and how environmental justice can be integrated into OWM’s daily work.

The Fish Advisory Program plans to offer training at national meetings for tribes on the development of fish consumption advisories. Training may also be held at national meetings for Headquarters staff and regional Fish and BEACH program coordinators on: 1) targeting waters for fish consumption and swimming advisories, and 2) implementing risk communication strategies for “hard-to-reach” communities such as those with limited English proficiency, limited literacy, geographic isolation, limited income, or unique cultural values and practices that may limit the effectiveness of risk communication tools that are currently applied.

Best practices and lessons learned in the Fish Advisory and BEACH programs will be developed as case studies for discussion at staff meetings. A series of case studies on best practices and lessons learned to promote environmental justice may also be published.

OWOW participates in a number of programs to help recruit minority and lower-income candidates, including the Hispanic American Colleges and Universities (HACU) summer internship program, and the Washington Center Native American Leadership Program. The perspective these interns bring to Headquarters has been invaluable in a wide variety of projects, and EPA staff often hear of interns’ later involvement in helping their communities have a greater say in environmental decision-making in their neighborhoods.

Section 9: Environmental Justice Assessment

C Will your Regional/Headquarters office have a process by which an environmental justice assessment will be conducted? If yes, please describe.

C Will your Regional/Headquarters office rely on any information resources with which to conduct an environmental justice assessment, such as the Environmental Justice Mapper, Environmental Justice Toolkit, etc.? If yes, please list and describe.

OW plans to take a more active role in developing mechanisms to conduct environmental justice assessments. To date OW does rely on tools such as the Environmental Justice Toolkit and Environmental Justice Mapper. Several of the program offices have initiatives and activities under development to conduct environmental justice assessments. These activities include: On a biannual basis, a modeling exercise will be performed using the Regional Econometric Input-output Model (REIM) or other appropriate tools to identify waters that may require advisories to provide public health protection for surrounding communities. These waters will be compared to data in the National Listing of Fish and Wildlife Advisories and Beach Watch database to determine whether protective advisories are currently in place for those waters. The results of this analysis will be used to help assess effectiveness of the programs, and to target waters for assessment and advisory development.

In addition, EPA believes it is important for states to make water quality standards easily and readily available for the public to access. OST developed tools to help states organize and display their water quality standards on a geographic basis. This enables the user to read and view water quality standards geographically and to overlay census and demographic data (including socioeconomic status and minority populations) as an environmental justice assessment tool.

The BEACH and Fish Advisory programs will rely on the Beach Watch database and the National Listing of Fish Advisories to conduct environmental justice assessments.

OGWDW will use the Safe Drinking Water Information System (SDWIS/FED) and U.S. Census Bureau Data to identify whether significant demographic differences exist between populations served by systems in violation of health-based standards within geographic regions and systems not in violation. In addition, data from the Safe Drinking Water Information System will be imported to an OGWDW Web-based Geospatial Application for data querying and mapping of potential risks from other sources of pollution. Further assessment will be conducted through the use of the Environmental Justice Mapper.

Finally, AIEO is looking into the possibility to use information in Tribal Information Management System (TIMS) to obtain data that could be useful in assessing environmental justice.

Section 10: Program Evaluation

C Will your regional/Headquarters office have any performance measures specifically related to environmental justice? If yes, please describe.

C Will your Regional/Headquarters office conduct any needs assessments, reports or other documents (produced internally or through a contract) to identify, quantify, and evaluate methods to strengthen and/or improve your environmental justice program? If yes, please list and describe.

C How will your Region/Headquarters highlight the accomplishments and results from your Environmental Justice Action Plan?

OW will be developing specific performance measures related to how successfully OW has integrated environmental justice into the activities that have been mentioned in this action plan. These performance measures will assist managers on how to better integrate environmental justice principles into policies, programs, and activities.

OWM funded a study to evaluate the reasons for the lack of access to basic sanitation in small and disadvantaged communities. Since many environmental justice populations fall within this grouping there may be opportunities to identify and address the needs of communities with environmental justice concerns as well.

AIEO is conducting a program evaluation of its General Assistance Program (GAP) grants. The results of the evaluation will be useful to GAP stakeholders involved in awarding grants, providing technical assistance and oversight, and planning and executing Tribal environmental programs. AIEO also produces an Annual Accomplishment's Report and has measures in its reporting system.

The Fish Advisory and BEACH programs do not have specific performance measures related to environmental justice. However, these programs have emphasized promotion of environmental justice through contaminant and pathogen monitoring and risk communication to minority populations who may consume large amounts of fish taken from polluted waters, or swim in urban and other waters containing high levels of pathogens. Therefore, the GPRA objectives, sub objectives, strategic targets, and program activity measures established for these programs are directly related to environmental justice. These performance measures are described earlier in this document.

The results and accomplishments of the Office of Water Environmental Justice Action Plan are highlighted in the Agency's: (1) Environmental Justice Action Plan Progress Report and derivative Best Practices Document, and (2) Biennial Report.

The Fish Contamination BEACH Programs publish annual fact sheets providing public information about fish consumption and swimming advisories issued during the year. These fact sheets will include information about the environmental justice accomplishments of the programs.

OW CY07-FY08 EJ Action Plan Matrix

Environmental Justice Action Plans

(FY2007/2008)

Goal 2: Clean and Safe Water

Objective 1: Safe fish/shellfish

Activities	Output	Applicable Outcome Measure			Point of Contact
		Short-term (awareness)	Intermediate (behavior)	Long-term (condition)	
1. In 2007, EPA, in cooperation with state, tribal, and federal partners, will hold a national conference on contaminants in fish.	Participate in biannual national conference	Greater information exchange among state, tribal, and community representatives on issues such as development of fish consumption advisories to protect targeted communities.			Jeffrey Bigler, OST
2. Maintain the Fish Advisory Program Web site that includes the National Listing of Fish Advisories	Update the NLFA website to include information about advisories for contaminants in fish. Disseminate information to health professionals and the public to enable informed decisions on when and where to fish, and how to prepare fish caught for recreation and subsistence.	Greater availability of information to minority and low-income populations.	Reduced exposure to contaminants in fish.		Jeffrey Bigler, OST

Activities	Output	Applicable Outcome Measure			Point of Contact
		Short-term (awareness)	Intermediate (behavior)	Long-term (condition)	
3. Disseminate information in multiple languages to the medical community through the Interagency Agreement with FDA and via medical conferences.	Printed materials about reducing the risk of exposure to contaminants in fish caught for recreation or subsistence will be disseminated in multiple languages to doctors, nurses, nurse practitioners, and midwives.	More minority, low income and non-English speaking populations will obtain information about reducing the risks of exposure to contaminants in fish.			Jeffrey Bigler, OST

Goal 2: Clean and Safe Water
Objective 2: Water safe for swimming

Activities	Output	Applicable Outcome Measure			Point of Contact
		Short-term (awareness)	Intermediate (behavior)	Long-term (condition)	
1. Provide technical guidance and assistance to states, tribes, and local governments for beach monitoring and public notification	Provide technical assistance to states and tribes for monitoring bathing beach waters and notifying the public when water quality standards for pathogen indicators are exceeded.	This will result in improved risk communication to individuals who swim at these beaches.			Beth Leamond OST
2. Provide funding for grants to eligible states, tribes, and local agencies for monitoring coastal recreation waters and issuing advisories when waters are unsafe for swimming due to high levels of pathogens	35 eligible state, tribal, and local agencies will use grant funds to implement coastal recreation water monitoring and public notification programs. Grant recipients will provide data to EPA about their monitoring and notification programs, beach advisories and closures issued, and water quality monitoring data.	EPA will make the information available to the public on the Agency's internet website.	Decreased exposure of minority populations to pathogens in recreational waters when indicators exceed water quality standards.		Richard Healy OST

Activities	Output	Applicable Outcome Measure			Point of Contact
		Short-term (awareness)	Intermediate (behavior)	Long-term (condition)	
3. Conduct National Beach Program Conference.	Hold the national conference biannually. Second national conference will be held in fiscal year 2007.	Greater information exchange among state and local agency representatives on environmental justice issues such as pathogen monitoring to identify waters where swimming advisories are needed to protect the health of targeted communities.			Beth Leamond OST
4. Maintain the Beach Watch internet Web site.	Make Internet Web site available that contains information about microbial pathogens in bathing beach waters.	Access to information describing state and local beach monitoring and notification programs as well as information about advisories and closures issued for specific beaches during the swimming season.			Richard Healy OST

**Environmental Justice Action Plans
(CY2007-FY2008)**

Goal 2: Clean and Safe Water

Objective 2: Clean and safe drinking water

1. Improve operations of tribal community water systems by conducting sanitary surveys at the required frequency to evaluate the adequacy of the facilities for producing and distributing safe drinking water.	<p>By 2008, all Tribal community water systems (100%) required to have undergone a sanitary survey will have their sanitary survey completed within the required cycle (default cycle for community water systems is three years).</p> <p>The total number of tribal community water systems that have undergone a sanitary survey within three years for their last sanitary survey (5 years for outstanding performers).</p> <p>2007 target: 30/54 Measured and reported under EPA's Measure # SDW-1.</p>	<p>Inspectors conducting sanitary surveys must apply basic scientific information and have a working knowledge of the operation, maintenance, management, and technology of a water system to identify sanitary risks that may interrupt the multiple barriers of protection at a water system. Deficiencies will be identified and recommendations for improvement will be provided through technical assistance to the tribe as needed.</p>	Community water system owners and operators will work to address deficiencies identified during a sanitary survey.	Sanitary deficiencies are addressed resulting in improved compliance and public health protection.	Elin Betanzo, OWM
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<p>2. Implement Tribal Drinking Water Operator Certification Program to provide tribes with further training and certification opportunities in addition to the existing training or certification programs offered by states, various federal agencies, and private organizations.</p>	<p>In 2007, develop a national program for certification of tribal water system operators. The program will establish testing procedures and a question bank, conduct certification testing, and tracking the status of certification of tribal water system operators.</p> <p>Establish a baseline for the number of tribal operators lacking certification in order to measure progress.</p>	<p>Conduct outreach to tribes to raise awareness of the national program and provide information on opportunities for certification.</p>	<p>Increased interest and enrollment for certification testing by tribal operators as measured through the program tracking system.</p>	<p>Water system operators possess the technical capacity to effectively and safely run their water system resulting in improved compliance and public health protection. Improved compliance as measured and reported under EPA's Strategic Target E.</p>	<p>Lisa Christ, OGWDW</p>
<p>3. Improve Tribal access to safe drinking water. EPA's strategic plan goal is to reduce by half, by 2015, the number of tribal homes that lack access to safe drinking water.</p> <p>2003 Baseline: 38,637 homes without access to safe drinking water (12% of the total number of 319,070 tribal homes as reported by IHS). Measured and reported under EPA's Strategic Target G.</p>	<p>In 2007, develop an interagency strategy to improve access to safe drinking water in coordination with other federal partners.</p>			<p>Reduce the number of homes in Indian Country that lack access to safe drinking water.</p>	<p>Elin Betanzo, OGWDW</p>

<p>4. Encourage voluntary activity by schools and child-care centers to address lead in drinking water. EPA developed a suite of materials, the 3Ts for Reducing Lead in Drinking Water in Schools and Child Care Facilities, which provided all the necessary information for a facility to develop and implement a lead in drinking water reduction program.</p>	<p>Develop and release two videos/DVDs: (1) overview of lead in schools issues and (2) instructional video on the importance of testing and how to collect a sample for lead.</p> <p>Develop and release a document outlining potential funding sources for schools and childcare facilities for environmental programs.</p> <p>Send emails to 15 school/child care organization listserves informing recipients of the content and availability of 3Ts materials. Publish 2 articles in school/child care organization newsletters or other publications. Distribute 3Ts toolkits during at least 2 school/child care annual conferences. Develop and implement at least 2 evaluation mechanisms to determine effectiveness of materials.</p>	<p>Schools and childcare facilities will become more aware of the potential for elevated lead levels in drinking water in their facilities. Officials of these facilities will understand the sources of lead in drinking water, health effects of lead exposure, remediation options and communication techniques; measured by number of web site hits, emails, newsletter articles published and conferences attended.</p> <p>Schools and childcare providers will order/request 3Ts materials; measured by orders placed for 3Ts materials.</p>	<p>Schools and childcare providers will implement a 3Ts program in their facility.</p>		<p>Lisa Christ, OGWDW</p>
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<p>5. Provide funding for infrastructure improvements for small and disadvantaged communities.</p>	<p>In 2006, 72% of loans and 39% of loan dollars made by state Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) programs were to small systems. The output in 2007 will depend on discretionary decisions by States.</p> <p>In 2006, 27% of loans (which may include lower-interest or longer-term loans and/or principal forgiveness) made by state DWSRF programs were to systems serving disadvantaged communities. Results in 2007 will also depend on States' decisions.</p> <p>In 2006, 1.88% of national appropriation will be used to provide grants to Tribal and territorial public water systems (1.5% for tribes and 0.38% for territories). This number is statutory and will not change for 2007.</p>	<p>States continue to be aware of the SDWA requirement to provide 15% of loan dollars to small systems.</p> <p>States determine the appropriate balance between applying disadvantaged assistance and growing the fund.</p> <p>EPA will continue to follow the DWSRF allocation formula with respect to tribes and territories, as put forth in the SDWA.</p>	<p>State Project Priority Lists reflect meeting this requirement.</p> <p>States apply their developed disadvantaged assistance program where they have determined there is a need for one.</p> <p>EPA will continue to make grants based on DWSRF allocation formula with respect to tribes and territories.</p>		<p>Howard Rubin, OGWDW</p>
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Activities	Output	Applicable Outcome Measure			Point of Contact
		Short-term (awareness)	Intermediate (behavior)	Long-term (condition)	
6. Use Safe Drinking Water Information System/Operational Data System (ODS) and geospatial applications to investigate compliance to drinking water standards in different types of communities.	Refine the methodology, incorporate the most recent data for 2006 and determine the statistical significance of the previous results for 2003, 2004 and 2005 data. Analyze data to identify trends in non-compliance over longer periods of time (longer than one year).	Expand decision-makers understanding of compliance to drinking water standards as it relates to different sizes of water systems and to demographics, including age, minority status and income.		Increase percentage of population served by community water systems that receive drinking water that meets (are in compliance with) health-based standards.	Leslie Cronkhite, OGWD
7. Calculate and distribute Underground Injection Control (UIC) Headquarters Reserve Funds. Additional Funds are taken off the top of the UIC State and Tribal program grant and used to support Tribal UIC Class V efforts.		Increased emphasis on the importance of Class V UIC well impacts on Underground Sources of Drinking Water USDW(s).	Improved management of tribal UIC Class V wells.	Increased Protection of USDW(s) and Tribal drinking water sources.	Jeff Jollie, OGWDW

**Environmental Justice Action Plans
(CY2007-FY2008)**

Goal 2: Clean and Safe Water

Objective 2.2: Protect Water Quality (Office of Wastewater Management)

Activities	Output	Applicable Outcome Measure			Point of Contact
		Short-term (awareness)	Intermediate (behavior)	Long-term (condition)	
1. Continue to provide construction grants and technical assistance for wastewater treatment facilities for Indian Tribes and Alaska Native Villages; EPA will use the Indian Health Service's Sanitation Deficiency System to identify high priority wastewater projects.				By 2015, reduce by 50 percent the number of homes on tribal lands lacking access to basic sanitation.	Adriana Hochberg, OWM
2. Continue to offer the environmental justice module as a component in the NPDES Permit Writers course for states and regions.	In 2007 and beyond, provide annually five course offerings for approximately 30 students per offering.				Pravin Rana, OWM

**Environmental Justice Action Plans
(CY2007-FY2008)**

Goal 4: Healthy Communities and Ecosystems

Objective 4.2: Communities (Office of Wastewater Management)

Activities	Output	Applicable Outcome Measure			Point of Contact
		Short-term (awareness)	Intermediate (behavior)	Long-term (condition)	
1. Provide people in the Mexico Border area with adequate drinking water systems.				By 2008, increase the number of homes connected to potable water supply systems.	Ben Hamm, OWM
2. Provide people in the Mexico Border area with adequate wastewater sanitation systems.				By 2008, increase the number of homes connected to wastewater collection and treatment systems. By 2012, achieve a majority of currently exceeded water quality standards in impaired transboundary segments of US surface waters.	Ben Hamm, OWM

Environmental Justice Action Plans

(CY2007-FY2008)

Goal 4: Healthy Communities and Ecosystems

Objective 2: Collaborative problem-solving to address environmental justice issues

Activities	Output	Applicable Outcome Measure			Point of Contact
		Short-term (awareness)	Intermediate (behavior)	Long-term (condition)	
1. Offer Tribal workshops to assist Tribes in preparing nonpoint source control management programs.	Conduct three to four workshops annually (or as requested by Tribes)	Attendance at workshops by Tribal representatives	An increase in the number of Tribes that develop Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Management Programs, and/or apply for section 319 grants.	Increase in number of Tribes that achieve one or more water quality goals in their management plans.	Andrea Matzke, OWOW
2. Conduct outreach to local disadvantaged communities regarding wetlands and watershed issues.	Hold three to five hands-on field events per year with local community groups; attendance by at least 50 children at hands-on field events.	The majority of the children in attendance gain exposure to basic watershed issues in their community.	Some of the children in attendance take positive environmental action in their community.		Rebecca Dils, OWOW

Activities	Output	Applicable Outcome Measure			Point of Contact
		Short-term (awareness)	Intermediate (behavior)	Long-term (condition)	
3. Partnering to protect wetlands through the Five Star Program	Provide project funding for approximately 50 projects per year.	Develop knowledge and skills in young people through aquatic resource restoration projects.	Increased participation in restoration projects by youth in disadvantaged communities. Project participants have experience and confidence, and are well positioned to take on similar projects in the future.		Myra Price, OWOW
4. Award 06-07 grants for Targeted Watersheds Grant (TWG) Program.	<p>Foster watershed-based partnerships with Tribes and other communities; encourage community-driven efforts to meet CWA goals.</p> <p>Encourage capacity building efforts with special focus on disproportionately affected communities (Arid West, Appalachia, and Great Plains).</p>		Grantees use technical and organizational experience and tools to achieve CWA goals.		Erin Collard, OWOW

**Environmental Justice Action Plans
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Cross Cutting Strategies:

Objective: Internal Capacity Building (e.g., internal program management)

Activities	Output	Applicable Outcome Measure			Point of Contact
		Short-term (awareness)	Intermediate (behavior)	Long-term (condition)	
1. OW DAA will serve on the OECA Environmental Justice Executive Steering Committee (EJ ESC).	EPA DAAs and DRAs will provide advice and guidance on efforts to improve the Agency's integration of EJ into its policies, programs, activities, and planning and budgeting process.		EPA is more focused and proactive in considering and including EJ communities' concerns in the development and implementation of its programs, policies, activities, planning/budgeting process.	Water related environmental justice conditions in communities with EJ concerns are addressed, improved and/or changed.	Mike Shapiro, IO
2. Convene the Office of Water Environmental Justice Integration Committee (OW EJIC) to assist with steering the OW Environmental Justice Program.	Assist the DAA with the integration of EJ into the OW Environmental Justice Program through the development of OW EJ Action Plans and Agency EJ Reports. OW EJIC also develops strategies to improve integration of EJ into OW.		OW EJIC will focus on cultivating a consistent and coordinated approach to integrate Environmental Justice in OW policies, programs and activities.	Conditions in communities with environmental concerns will improve.	OW EJ Contacts: Alice Walker, IO Towanda Dorsey, OGW Donna Downing, OWOW Theodore Johnson, OST Teresa Kuklinski, AIEO William Webster, OWM

Activities	Output	Applicable Outcome Measure			Point of Contact
		Short-term (awareness)	Intermediate (behavior)	Long-term (condition)	
3. Provide OW staff with On-line Intro to Environmental Justice Training and incorporate On-line EJ Training into the Water Careers Program, Drinking Water Academy, Water Quality Standards Academy and the Watersheds Academy.	Provide an on-line tool for integrating environmental justice.	Training will provide an understanding of EJ-related issues and concerns.	Knowledge from the training is applied to EPA work and programs.	Environmental conditions in communities with EJ concerns are improved.	Alice Walker, IO
4. Conduct a survey of existing EJ Training and develop draft proposal for EJ Training specific to OW's programs, policies and activities.	Provide OW staff with environmental justice training that specifically relates to their work.	Skill level of OW staff will increase to better identify the concerns of environmental justice communities and the impact that OW's programs, policies and activities have on these communities.	Concerns of EJ communities will be considered when decisions are made for areas where EJ communities are located.	Environmental conditions will improve in communities with Environmental Justice concerns	Alice Walker, IO
5. OW staff provides support to the Agency and Office of Environmental Justice Workgroups efforts to integrate EJ into the Agency and OW's policies, programs and initiatives.	OW staff serves on OEJ and Agency workgroups such as National EJ Coordinators Planning Workgroups and the Agency EJ Review Workgroup - Permits Workgroup and Standards and Rulemaking Workgroups.	Identify whether the Agency is effectively identifying and addressing EJ concerns that may arise with respect to OW Permitting, Standard Setting and Rulemaking/Regulatory Development and other OW programs, policies or activities; and identify opportunities for the Agency to enhance its effectiveness in identify and addressing EJ concerns.	Concerns of EJ communities will be considered when decisions are made for areas where EJ communities are located.	Environmental conditions will improve in communities with Environmental Justice concerns	Alice Walker, IO

Activities	Output	Applicable Outcome Measure			Point of Contact
		Short-term (awareness)	Intermediate (behavior)	Long-term (condition)	
6. Conduct Environmental Justice Brown Bag	Offer several EJ Brown Bags to broaden OW staff understanding of Environmental Justice issues, and to allow interaction with EJ community stakeholders	Gain knowledge of water related environmental justice issues that affect EJ community stakeholders.	OW staff will focus work and apply knowledge gained as they develop OW programs, policies and activities.	Work product and decisions about work in OW improve environmental justice conditions in communities with environmental justice concerns	Alice Walker, IO
7. Participate in the Agency's Community Action for A Renewed Environment (CARE) Program	Educate and encourage the use of OW volunteer programs, i.e., Adopt A Watershed, Volunteer Water Monitoring Program, and Water Use Efficiency Program.	Assist CARE grant holders to develop their own approaches to reducing toxics and creating safe communities.			Kitty Miller, IO
8. Train EPA personnel to work more effectively with tribal governments and to understand the unique nature of working with tribes.	Administer Agency wide the Working Effectively with Tribal Governments training.	Offer on-line training to an increased number of EPA staff and management. (Measure: # of people satisfactorily completing the training).	Knowledge from the training is applied to EPA work and programs (measure: post training survey or tracking mechanism on how tribal concerns are incorporated into programs, etc.	Environmental conditions on Indian lands are improved.	Caren Robinson, AIEO

Activities	Output	Applicable Outcome Measure			Point of Contact
		Short-term (awareness)	Intermediate (behavior)	Long-term (condition)	
9. Coordinate and work with federally recognized tribes and EPA Program Offices to build an environmental presence and environmental programs in Indian country.	Coordinate funding for Seniors Environmental Employees (SEE) Circuit Rider Program in the Regions.	Increase the capacity of interested tribes to administer their environmental programs to protect human health and the environment of tribal lands (measure: # of Regions served by Senior Service America, Inc).	SEE advice is incorporated into tribal environmental programs (measure: The number of tribal council or program actions that are related to SEE advice).	Program and project changes improve the environment in Indian Country (measure: GAP 5.3 measures).	Elvira Dixon, AIEO